

## H. CON. RESOLUTION ON UGANDA

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleague Mr. Payne in submitting this resolution condemning the forced abduction of children by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda. The LRA, a bizarre Christian group supported by the fundamentalist Islamic government in Sudan, has kidnapped some 10,000 Ugandan children and forced them to fight as insurgents. Some of these children are as young as eight years old.

Captive children raid and loot villages and serve in the front lines against the Ugandan army. They are also forced to help kill other abducted children who try to escape. Young teenage girls suffer the additional horror of serving as "wives" to ranking rebel soldiers. If they resist, they are beaten, sometimes severely. Girls may be given to several men in the course of a year.

I am heartened that the children's plight is getting more international attention. In March, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights condemned "in the strongest terms" the abduction of children in Northern Uganda, and the First Lady addressed the issue in a speech while visiting the country. Much more needs to be done, however.

This resolution condemns the abduction of children by the LRA in northern Uganda and calls for the immediate release of all LRA child captives. It urges the recently-appointed U.N. Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict to aggressively address the situation, and encourages the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child to investigate. The resolution also calls on the Al-Bashir Government in Sudan to stop supporting the LRA and asks President Clinton to provide more support to U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations working to rehabilitate and reintegrate former child soldiers into society.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation and I urge all my colleagues to support it. Let us help end the nightmare for children in Northern Uganda.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 20, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 297–306. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 297, 298, 299, 300 and 301, "no" on rollcall vote 302, "yes" on rollcall votes 303, 304, and 305, and "no" on rollcall vote 306. Please place this in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

MR. STARR: WAIVE REPORTERS' PRIVILEGE OF SILENCE AND ALLOW THEM TO TELL WHAT THEY KNOW

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr is now the subject of multiple investigations of whether he and his staff illegally leaked confidential information to the media. Those investigations include a contempt hearing to be held by Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of the federal court in Washington, and inquiries by the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Justice Department, and the D.C. Bar Counsel. In addition, the Independent Counsel is supposed to be investigating himself.

Mr. Starr has already admitted that he and his chief deputy, Mr. Jackie Bennett, routinely talk to the media on an off-the-record basis regarding their investigation of the President. The Independent Counsel claims, however, that his discussions were legal because the rule of grand jury secrecy does not reach information until it is presented to a grand jury. That argument, in my view, is incorrect.

An important question in these leak investigations will be exactly what was said during meetings between the prosecutors and reporters. In order to have a full and complete record of what went on during those sessions, the Independent Counsel should publicly release the reporters from their vows of silence. After all, is it fair for the Independent Counsel to share confidential information with reporters, and then force them to cover-up possible misdeeds?

I fully respect a reporter's First Amendment right not to reveal a source. But the Independent Counsel can relieve the reporters from having to make a difficult decision to stand mute. Given the significance of issues involving the investigation of the President, Mr. Starr should allow the court and public to know what his media contacts have to say on this subject.

On more than one occasion, the Independent Counsel has called on the President to urge others to waive privileges and testify. The first was when he wrote to the White House Counsel, Mr. Ruff, asking that the President tell Susan McDougal to waive her Fifth Amendment rights and testify before the White water grand jury. Mr. Starr did that even though Ms. McDougal had her own lawyer to advise her, and publicly said that she would not listen to what the President said. In addition, the spokesman for the Independent Counsel, Mr. Bakaly, criticized the President for refusing to urge Ms. McDougal to give up her rights.

A second instance involved the Secret Service. In April of this year, after the Secret Service argued that its agents could not be compelled to testify about the President, Mr. Starr requested that the President waive any Secret Service privilege and order the agents to appear before the grand jury. Mr. Starr made that request even though the privilege was asserted by the Secret Service and not the President, and the Secret Service's director, Mr. Merletti, considered the matter to be one of great national significance.

The President was right when he refused the Independent Counsel's ill-considered requests. But I cannot see any public interest in Mr. Starr's refusal to waive the privilege that requires his media contacts to remain silent in the face of these leak investigations. The Independent Counsel has made clear that he views the invocation of privileges as a roadblock to the truth. How, in good conscience, can he take a different position simply because he has now become the focus of the investigation?

## STATEMENT FROM SOME VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from my home state of Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I insert this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of this young person will benefit my colleagues:

STATEMENT BY ERIK KENYON, MEGAN WILLEY, KELLY COOK AND JUSTIN STURGES REGARDING GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

ERIK KENYON: Thank you.

United Nations here from the Bellows Free Academy Gay-Straight Alliance. You have already heard about gay-straight alliances, so we are just going to tell you a bit today about the way our school works.

Like most places in Vermont, St. Albans—over that way—is fairly isolated. For the first two years of high school, I just didn't date anyone. It was something I had no real urge to do. I never thought, well, maybe I'm gay, because the word never came up at all, until I went off to the Vermont Youth Orchestra—which is really cool—I have to get a plug in here; we have a concert tomorrow by the way—which is where I met my first gay person, and that United Nations. "That makes sense. Why didn't I think of that?" This is how isolated St. Albans really is. And St. Albans is actually a big progressive for the State of Vermont, if that tells you anything.

And so, at the beginning of the year, some students got together, and we wanted to start something, and the gay-straight alliance is what we decided on, and here is Justin to tell you about that.

JUSTIN STURGES: When we began, it was a new thing, you know, no one had even thought about GSAs, and so we were met with a certain degree of resistance. There is a story that goes along with this. When we first went into our headmaster's office, there were three of us, Erik, myself and another guy, who couldn't be here. He asked us, Well, how many of you people are there? And that, right there, set the mood. He has gotten better, and I think that we are the reason, to an extent. It was this sense of newness, this sense of an uncharted area that no one had been to yet, and we broke that.

And we have been met with certain degree of resistance from several people, from people in the school, from outside influences, from adults, from the teachers.

Here is Kelly. Kelly is going to talk about an experience of her's.

KELLY COOK: Hi.

Yeah. I joined GSA about three weeks ago, I think. One time, I was walking up to a coffee house which we put on quite often. And a

lot of people don't accept different people, like they call me a freak at my school. I'm like: Okay, whatever. I am just walking out with a whole bunch of people and suddenly these people come by with a truck and throw stones at me. That is the kind of stuff you have to get rid of.

And a lot of people just don't accept gay, bi, or different people at all, and I will hand it over to Erik.

ERIK KENYON: But we have been making success this year, and when we were starting out, there were some people all for us and supportive, and some people that were really against us. But most of the people were just sort of indifferent, and we won over most of them. And we have been working on the rest of them.

And a lot of the time this sort of change—well, the bills and all the policies help a great deal, but a lot of the times, it is that little things. Like an experience I had just last week, just in the cafeteria, and just bringing my tray up and dumping my garbage and all that, and behind me I could hear a chant of, "Queer, queer, queer," getting louder and louder. It started as a stage whisper, which is hard with microphones. But it was just—it is kind of commonplace.

So I just did my thing, put all my stuff away, and then walked over to the table where it was coming from—it was quite obvious—and just stood there and stared at them. And they were just like: Hi. What? They got really uncomfortable, you know.

So I didn't say a thing, just walked away out in the hall, did something or other. And I was really surprised, the boy at the table that was doing it, came that and apologized to me. He said, you know: "I'm sorry, I didn't mean it," and all that. And I was like: Okay, thanks. And he said, "No, really, I'm sorry. I was just trying to show off. It was stupid." And he shook my hand. That was just, like: Oh, wow. That was change, and this is how a lot of these changes happen.

And a lot of other things have come up through the course of the day, about things that people would like to get put into place. And we can speak for some of those, like the harassment policy, which doesn't get exercised enough. It doesn't get exercised, because it is really difficult to exercise, but through our group, we had have had, I think three people so far who have gone through the process and done the paperwork to file the complaint, and the harassment has stopped.

We also put on a number of coffee houses, just to read poetry and stuff. It is a nice, relaxed atmosphere. It was odd at the first one, we had 100 people, out of a student body of 1,000, so you get that kind of one in ten, ten percent, and that was kind of neat.

We also have a Web page, put together for the GSA in the state, to try to help us network. It is a start, but we could use a lot more.

And, Justin?

JUSTIN STURGES: What we see needs to happen—we are obviously here for a purpose—we see, for the advancement of such things as we have been doing, we find it necessary for teachers to be trained. That is the one thing that has been left out. You know, we have done what we can for the student population, and will continue to try to educate them, to get them to be more open to our organization and anyone who is different from what they may see.

We find it necessary for the teachers to be trained, because they are the source, to an extent, because they are there in the classroom with all the students, because they come into contact with every student in that school. And, sometimes, they let things slip that, perhaps, they shouldn't.

Outright Vermont, right here in Burlington, does do a program, and we have

talked to them about it, but there were restrictions in our school because of the amount of assemblies we have had and the amount of inservice time that we have had, and we couldn't get anything off the ground. But support for that is the one thing we are rallying for currently, the one thing we see that needs to happen.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much

#### STATEMENT BY CHRISTIE NOLD REGARDING CHILD LABOR

CHRISTIE NOLD: My name is Christie Nold. I am an eighth grade student at Shelburne Community School.

For the past several weeks, I have been researching the topic of child labor in the U.S. and throughout the world. This is a brief summary of my findings.

The problem: Around the world, there are 250 million underaged children in the work force. There are nearly 300,000 underaged workers in the United States. Working conditions include: Wages as low as \$1.50 per day; sexual abuse; physical punishment; exposure to dangerous chemicals; and children chained to their machines.

Companies that utilize child labor include: GAP, Nike, J.C. Penny, Esprit, Disney and many others. For example, workers are paid 6 cents to produce a 101 Dalmations outfit that is sold in the U.S. for \$20.

Progress in the fight against child labor: As awareness of this problem that has grown, there has been progress in the fight to end child labor. My research has uncovered that our own congressman, Congressman Sanders, has been the leading spokesman in the U.S. Congress against child labor, and specifically against Nike. His efforts are producing results. As recently as Tuesday May 12, Phillip Knight, the CEO of Nike, announced the following changes in his companies practices: They will raise the minimum age of its workers to 16 at its clothing factor, and 18 at its shoe factories; they will adopt U.S. standards or fresh air inside their factories; they will ask individual foundations and rights groups to monitor Nike plants worldwide; they will begin having on-site education programs at their factories.

Congratulations, Congressman Sanders. Your efforts are paying off.

There is still much work to be done, as the ultimate goal is to bring jobs back to the U.S. and pay American workers a living wage. The Foul Ball Campaign is another area where progress has been made. For years, the vast majority of soccer balls were made and stitched in Pakistan using child labor. FIFA, the governing body of soccer, has determined that it will not put its stamps on soccer balls made by child labor.

The Rugmark campaign has also made progress. Hand-made oriental rugs are commonly made by children who are chained to their machines and guarded by men with guns. The Rugmark label was created in 1997 to indicate rugs that were made without child labor. Now, when you purchase an Oriental rug, you can look for this label.

In conclusion, child labor continues to be one of the worst social and economical problems in the world today. The goal of our generation is to help eliminate this problem by: Becoming aware of companies that utilize child labor and take our business elsewhere; let the leaders of these companies know that we have a lot of consumer power, and will not purchase their products; support those who are leading the fight against child labor.

Thank you.

Congressman SANDERS: That was an excellently written and presented paper. That was really good.

STATEMENT BY AMANDA BEAN, REBECCA WEST, NOEL BAKER, JESSICA DAILEY, SARAH McDONOUGH, NIKKI ERNO, LOUISE MARTINEK, STACEY ZAK, JODY JERNIGAN AND CELINA COGLAN REGARDING TEEN PREGNANCY/WELFARE REFORM

JESSICA DAILEY. Jessica.

I would like to speak about teens and the resources that we seem to be lacking. We found that there are very few resources for teens either who are pregnant, or who aren't but need help. There is the Lund Family Center, which is pretty much the only one of its kind in the area. And we need more help. There is really nowhere for us to go.

There is also a problem with people who aren't pregnant. They have no really good teen pregnancy prevention programs out there for people at high risk, and we feel there needs to be put more of an emphasis on prevention and giving education for that.

Congressman SANDERS. Other thoughts? We would like to hear from as many folks as possible. Please don't be shy. Who else? Just pass the mike along.

JESSICA DAILEY. Nikki wanted me to say something for her.

Congressman SANDERS. Sure.

JESSICA DAILEY. Also, the program called Spectrum for people who have had children who are in SRS custody who are over the age of 16. However, there are no programs like that for people under 16, and a lot of people are falling through the cracks. There needs to be programs out there for people who are under 16 who are in SRS custody towed.

AMANDA BEAN. I know I am in SRS custody, and I have a daughter. I am not 16, and therefore I can't go into the Spectrum program because of that fact, and I have been living at the Lund Family Center for a very long time. And there are no programs for me except Lund, which, to me, feels like I am staying there a long time, when other girls could be coming into my spot, which could be helping them, when I have already been helped, but, yet, I am not old enough to go into that program that they have.

NOEL BAKER. I think that the schools really need to support our decision. In my case, school told me to get my GED or my adult diploma, and I am not old enough to do that. And I really wanted to get my education and everything, and Lund is the only resource out there that I could go to get my schooling and to parent my son. I really do think that the support of school would really help us right now.

JODY JERNIGAN. My name is Jody, and I'm 14. And I just wanted to say, make the point really clear that there is not much out there for teens, and pregnant teens. Lund has been really helpful, but we need more out there. We need things for teens to do so they are not getting pregnant, and also things for teens to do that are pregnant or that do have children, because there is nothing out there.

LOUISE MARTINEK. I just wanted to say that I think day cares need to be given more money. Day care workers are like making nothing and our day care has no money to do anything.

JESSICA DAILEY. About day care, I am unable to have my child in the day care center at Lund because there aren't enough spots open. It was unreal trying to find a day care that would take subsidy. And even when they did, I am still having to pay extra, and it is very, very difficult. And a lot of the day cares that will accept full subsidy, workers are being paid so low that you are not really getting quality with your child care.

I think that something needs to be done about that, because, I mean, it is pretty bad when you walk into a day care and you have a bunch of kids, hardly any day care workers, and they are not paying attention to

them. I have run into them a couple of times.

Congressman SANDERS. Other comments?

AMANDA BEAN. I was wondering about longer hours of day care, like not longer days, but being open longer. Most day cares are 5:00 or 6:00, and what about people who work until 9:00 or 10:00 at night and have to pay someone extra, and weekend day cares. I work on the weekends, and I have to pay somebody unreal amounts of money to babysit my kid, and there goes most of my money.

Congressman SANDERS. The issue that we are talking about obviously is a very personal and difficult issue. I very much applaud you all for coming up, and I thank you for doing that.

#### HONORING SGT. JOHN PETERSON

#### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention of my Colleagues to a tragedy in my Congressional District earlier this month. Sgt. John Peterson, a loyal and dedicated Alpine, New Jersey, police officer was critically injured on the job. His case has brought an outpouring of sympathy from our community.

Sgt. Peterson was directing traffic around a Bell Atlantic cable-stringing crew on Hillside Avenue in Alpine about 1:30 p.m. July 2 when he was struck by a car. The car turned from Church Street onto Hillside, then increased in speed while ignoring Sgt. Peterson's orders to stop. The sergeant finally attempted to jump out of the way but was struck by the car and suffered broken bones in his nose, pelvis, chest and shoulders, among other injuries. He was flown by helicopter to Hackensack University Medical Center, where he was listed in critical but stable condition at last report. A 71-year-old Cresskill woman has been charged with failing to comply with the directions of a police officer.

Sgt. Peterson has patrolled the streets of Alpine for more than 25 years, becoming well-known among the residents of the affluent Bergen County borough. He, his wife, Marie, two adolescent children and one grandchild live in nearby Emerson. The couple also have two adult children. When word of the accident and severe injuries spread, the community was shocked. As a result, Alpine residents Ed and Sally Desser have begun a fund-raising campaign to help Sgt. Peterson and his family pay for medical expenses. A fundraising barbecue will be held at the Desser's home this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that police officers are among the most valued members of our communities. They work nights, weekends and holidays to protect us, our families and our property. Their work is hard and their pay modest. And every day they know they may be called on to put their lives on the line. Officers' spouses and children pray each day that they will return home from work safely—not a worry most of us have to face. In a small and relatively crime-free community such as Alpine, those worries seldom turn into real-life tragedy. But this terrible accident reminds us of the dangers a police officer faces every moment of every day—whether chasing drug dealers through a crime-ridden corner of a

major city or directing traffic in a peaceful suburb.

I ask all the Members of the House to join me in offering their gratitude to the hard work and dedication of officers like Sgt. Peterson across our nation. Let us strive to keep Sgt. Peterson and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, I was unavoidably detained during roll call vote number 282, on final passage of H.R. 3267, a bill concerning the Salton Sea. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no".

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF FLORIDA FOR LOSSES SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF WILD LAND FIRES

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 20, 1998*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 298. The people in the northeast and central regions of the state of Florida have experienced great hardship because of the destruction of nearly 500,000 acres of land and over \$276,000,000 dollars in aggregate damages.

I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to the people who have personally incurred loss, or who had family and friends who sustained losses due to the brush fires that damaged or destroyed nearly four hundred homes and businesses in Florida.

We must also recognize the firefighters, from forty-seven states across this nation who unselfishly worked around the clock in extreme heat to combat these fires.

At the same time, this incident underscores the need to prepare ourselves in advance for future catastrophes. I am hopeful that we can learn from our experiences in this matter and apply our knowledge to prevention.

With the victims and families of this disaster in mind, I strongly urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to vote for House Concurrent Resolution 298.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROLE PONCHETTI

#### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fresno Businesswoman Carole Ponchetti, President and Chief Executive Officer of J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc., for her efforts and success in the business arena. Carole Ponchetti's climb and dedication to her current position in a traditionally male-

dominated field has made her very deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Ponchetti has clearly demonstrated a drive for success. She attended California State University, Fresno, earning her license as a Class B General Building Contractor. In 1971, Mrs. Ponchetti began her career with Ethridge, working as a secretary in a one-employee office. Steadily climbing the corporate ladder in the mid 1980's, Mrs. Ponchetti was a key figure in the renovations of the Fresno Bee and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Mrs. Ponchetti has served the community in more ways than one. She is currently on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a board member of the San Joaquin Business Investment Group (a minority interest), and a member of the Fresno Business Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Carole Ponchetti for her effort with J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc. Her commitment and unfailing dedication serve not only as a model for current heads of business, but also for women who wish to enter and succeed in the business field. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Carol Ponchetti many more years of success.

#### RECOGNIZING LARRY D. HAAB

#### HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 24, 1998*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mr. Larry D. Haab, who will be retiring from the Illinova Corporation, a power company in my congressional district. He has honorably served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and will resign from the latter post this summer after more than 25 years of service. I wish him all the best during his retirement.

Larry attended Millikin University in my district and earned his bachelor of science degree in 1959. He recognized that commitment to his career and Illinova was essential in the business world. Larry established his career in the early 1970's when he was appointed manager of data processing at Illinova. His superior service to the company resulted in his promotion to vice president two years later, and reelection in the subsequent years until he achieved the presidency in 1989. By 1991, Larry had achieved the offices of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Larry recognized the potential of Illinova, and he wanted to expand it into larger and new markets. During his career, he helped in the growth of the corporation from a local utility to a nationwide business to an international operation.

In addition, Larry devotes his energy to serving on dozens of boards and councils with dynamic leadership and integrity. He understands the importance of being involved and committed to the Decatur community. From the Illinois Energy Association and the Millikin University Alumni Board to the Decatur County Economic Development Foundation, Larry has maintained active involvement with business and community issues. He is married to Ann Haab, and has two daughters and a son.

Mr. Speaker, please help me in recognizing Mr. Larry D. Haab for his dedication and commitment to Illinova and his community. As a member of the House Small Business Committee, it is a pleasure to witness businessmen